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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 26 August 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 25 August 1992 addressed to you by His Excellency Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 45 and 150, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 25 August 1992 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the remarks made by the Greek Cypriot representative in the course of his intervention at the resumed session of the General Assembly held yesterday afternoon on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Greek Cypriot side, which misses no opportunity to lash out at the Turkish Cypriots, has also exploited this occasion for its own political ends, by attempting to establish a parallel between the item on the agenda and Cyprus.

Those of us who are familiar with the events of the recent past in Cyprus know perfectly well that the Greek Cypriots are the last people to talk about "ethnic cleansing". In the genocidal attacks they launched against the Turkish Cypriots in 1963, not only did the Greek Cypriots drive us out of our homes and properties but also tried to exterminate us. The savagery of these attacks, which continued intermittently until 1974 prompted a former American Under-Secretary of State, Mr. George Ball, to state in his memoirs entitled "The Past Has Another Pattern" that Makarios was trying "to turn this beautiful island into (his) private abbatoir" (p. 347).

It was our resistance and, ultimately, Turkey's rescue operation in 1974 in its capacity as Guarantor under the 1960 Agreements that saved Cyprus from the vicious Greek Cypriot campaign of "ethnic cleansing".

The Greek Cypriot side cannot cover up its shameful record by trying to shift the blame for their crimes on others. The mass population movements after 1963, which affected exclusively the Turkish Cypriots, were the direct result of the Greek Cypriot campaign to "Hellenize" Cyprus. This was a typical case of "ethnic cleansing". As a consequence, fully a quarter of the Turkish Cypriot population became refugees and the Turkish Cypriots found themselves squeezed into enclaves covering 3 per cent of the country. The Greek Cypriot representative conveniently ignored this dark episode of the history of Cyprus and alluded to what happened after 1974. The regrouping of populations in 1975 was the result of an agreement between the two sides reached in Vienna on 2 August of that year, which was implemented on a totally voluntary basis under United Nations supervision in September 1975 (see S/11789/Add.2 dated 13 September 1975).

The Greek Cypriot representative remarked that there were only 500 Greek Cypriots living in the north. It is regrettable that he did not have the courage to also refer to the even fewer Turkish Cypriots who live in the south.

The Greek Cypriot representative used the occasion of a debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to slander us by drawing false analogies between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Cyprus. As I have indicated, the correct analogy is between the Bosnians and the Turkish Cypriots who have both been victims of brutal "ethnic cleansing".

Before concluding, I should like to point out that the implacable hostility of the Greek Cypriots vis-à-vis their Turkish Cypriot neighbours became manifest once again on the occasion of the General Assembly debate on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Once again, the Greek Cypriots were unable to resist the temptation to reveal their deep-seated hostility to the Turkish Cypriots. They have revealed once again how utterly unprepared they are to form a federation of equals with us. We and the rest of the world will not fail to draw the obvious conclusions on the eve of the convening of the next round of intercommunal talks in New York designed to forge the two Cypriot States into one Federal Republic of Cyprus.

I shall appreciate it if this letter is circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 45 and 150, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative of the Turkish
Republic of Northern Cyprus